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DES Environmental Leadership Initiative  
Encouraging Superior Environmental Performance Through Management Systems,  
Recognition, and Rewards

**Minutes of Stakeholder Steering Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

2:05 – 2:35 PM

29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH

By telephone: 1-888-520-8955, PIN 5688#

In person: 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, Room 213

**Meeting Purpose:** a) Update on *Aspiring Leaders* program.  
b) Tier 2 – *Green Leaders* – Progress so far.  
c) Other informational items

**Attendees:**

By telephone:	
Patti Carrier	NH Ball Bearings, HiTech Div.
Eric Ension	Bruss Construction
Dennis Sasseville	PRIZIM Consulting
In person:	
Bob Minicucci	NH DES (recorder)
Sharon Yergeau	NH DES

**Record of the meeting:**

**A. *Aspiring Leaders***

After introductions and a quick review of the agenda, we discussed the current status of *Aspiring Leaders*. There are now 19 members, with several pending applications. The March '09 *Business NH* magazine contains a green-business insert that has some good publicity for us. We discussed the current universe of projects which members have undertaken – it's posted at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/p2au/pis/elip/documents/members.pdf>.

A guidance message will go out soon to *Aspiring Leaders* members about how to report on the results of their projects. Our goal is to obtain data that is both verifiable and aggregate-able.

**B. Tier 2, *Green Leaders***

From the recruitment letters for *Green Leaders* that went out in October to all NH Performance Track members and all other known NH firms registered to ISO 14001, we've processed three

successful applicants, and another application is expected any day now. Pre-entry site visits went smoothly, and only involved DES assistance staff visiting each applicant for a couple of hours.

We are currently working with the Governor's Office for a *Green Leaders* kick-off event, similar to the one Governor Lynch did for *Aspiring Leaders* in December of '07. The Executive Council meeting of April 1 is a possibility, but this is not set.

### **C. Georgia's "Sustainable Office Toolkit" track**

At the last meeting of this stakeholder group, we discussed an aspect of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' recognition program, a special category for offices or service businesses. Information on this - their "Sustainable Office Toolkit" - is at [http://www.p2ad.org/documents/pp\\_criteria.html](http://www.p2ad.org/documents/pp_criteria.html). Based at least partly on those discussions, DES would like to replicate this aspect of Georgia's program, as it seems much more suitable to an office set-up than a program based on environmental management systems, however modified.

A website at EPA Region 5 for office-EMS was mentioned as useful. This seems to be the website for Region 5's own EMS, at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/ems/metcalfe/index.htm>. You may recall that federal facilities have all been tasked to develop EMSs. At that website, there are links to standard procedures they developed, at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/ems/metcalfe/r5manual5.htm#emp>. Other EPA regions have similar websites, but I did not find listings of standard procedures at the other ones I checked.

### **D. Other informational items**

The NH Small Business Development Center, [www.nhsbdc.org](http://www.nhsbdc.org), has finished its distance-learning curriculum for business sustainability. It looks really good; just click on the "Roadmap to Sustainability" button on their website.

DES is looking to set up its first conference of program members in late August or early September of this year.

As you probably know, DES's program is being designed and built in partnership with EPA's Performance Track program. At this conference call, DES informed attendees that the EPA budget being discussed in legislative committees in Washington cut Performance Track's budget by 50%. This was thought not to be enough to keep the program running. There have been further developments since the March 10 call. EPA Administrator Jackson has shut the program down entirely. A memo from the Administrator dated March 16 indicates that the Agency intends to re-evaluate its collection of voluntary partnership programs.

### **Conclusion:**

The next meeting of this group is not yet scheduled, but we expect it to be in June 2009. That meeting will probably also be held by telephone, but please let us know if you have an opinion one way or the other on that.

Thank you all very much for your time and interest. Remember, we can come and speak to your group about the Environmental Leadership Initiative if you think that would be useful. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 603-271-2941 or at [RMINICUCCI@DES.STATE.NH.US](mailto:RMINICUCCI@DES.STATE.NH.US).

Sincerely,



Robert P. Minicucci II, PE  
Special Projects Manager  
Department of Environmental Services